



PHANTOM WARRIORS

AFZF-GA-SAFE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5056



PHANTOM WARRIORS

10 April 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: POV Safety Experience

1. As we all know, POV accidents consistently claim more soldiers' lives than all other categories of fatality-producing events combined (training, off-duty/recreational, and suicides). The Army loses about 100 soldiers every year due to POV accidents. This is equivalent to a company-size formation - a terrible thought. It goes without saying that this staggering number translates into many more grieving families and friends. It saddens me that a soldier gets killed in every 2d or 3d POV accident. This is the prime reason why our commanders, leaders, and soldiers must all support POV accident prevention in concerted efforts.
2. With the extremely busy first half of FY2002 closed out now, I want to reflect on where III Corps has been and where we are going in regard to our POV accidents experience. First, I want to thank our commanders, leaders, and soldiers for relentlessly promoting, supporting, and sustaining POV accident programs, which - by the way - apparently already reflect a measure of success. Your continued involvement and staying engaged with POV safety is vital to turning POV accident rates around. When we compare these last six months to the same periods of FY2000 and FY2001, we see a 33% reduction in the number of POV fatalities throughout III Corps. For the first halves of FY2000 and FY2001, III Corps had an average of twelve POV fatalities, while we had eight in the first six months of this fiscal year. Even though just one fatality is too many, we seem to be on a positive track for combating POV accidents and fatalities.
3. While we cannot identify an individual program that may have caused this reduction in POV fatalities, we know that we implemented and are sustaining a series of good programs. The product of these make up our III Corps POV accident prevention program. For instance: Our Summer Safety Campaign is heavily laden with POV safety requirements; we conduct safety AARs after a fatality to drill down to the root causes of incidents; the Corps POV Safety policy provides numerous tools to use in the fight against POV accidents; our newly-formatted safety councils keep senior commanders abreast of safety issues; safety reminders prior to long weekends/holidays ensure that soldiers are adequately armed to make it through weekend and holidays safely; and the III Corps Red Hashes and Yellow Borders sensitize us to the magnitude of the POV safety challenge.
4. Having said all this, I do know one thing is for sure. When first line supervisors, our great Non-Commissioned Officers, take charge of impacting positively on the POV driving behaviors of the soldiers in their crews, teams, sections, and squads, good things happen, lives are saved and deaths go down. This single fact is the key to any successful POV fatality reduction program.
5. I solicit your continued efforts to make the second half of this fiscal year even better than the first half. Engaged leadership, empowered and responsible first line supervisors, and disciplined soldiers -- all taking personal responsibility for safety in their risk reduction "lanes" can make this happen.

Ensure This Receives Widest Dissemination And Is Posted On Bulletin Boards

B. B. BELL
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION: A